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Italy, Switzerland, Germany, with a chapter on the soviet republic and its government. The author recognizes that events are moving so fast that no account of European government can remain accurate for any length of time. In fact, one of the problems which the author successfully meets is to picture government in the process of change. The book is a type of good college textbook, more useful and more sound than some pretentious and widely advertised histories recently published. It draws together the scattered, indefinite and miscellaneous information which most of us have on the subject, and fills in the gaps. The style is easy and the book can therefore be recommended to the general reader. A review cannot even outline the contents; one finds in the chapters devoted to France a sketch of the French revolutionary constitution, the changes during the present war, the organization of the ministry, the courts, and local government, the electoral law of 1919 and its proportional representation, the movements toward decentralization, the political parties, the development and present state of socialism. The same thing is done at greater length for England, and in less detail for Italy and Germany. In the portions devoted to law and justice one notes the references to standard legal works and especially the citation of good articles in the periodicals. A student of criminal law would expect to find, however, a reference to Stephen's History.

*A. M. Kidd.*

THE PREPARATION OF CONTRACTS AND CONVEYANCES. By Henry Winthrop Ballantine. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1921. pp., 226.

The book is intended for law students, not as an exhaustive treatise on the subject, if such a thing were possible, but as the basis for a series of practical exercises in drafting contracts, leases, mortgages, corporate papers, wills, etc. Each problem is analyzed, important provisions necessary to a solution are stated, and some of the pitfalls pointed out. It constitutes the text basis for a course in practice. Experienced lawyers will not learn much from it, but it should materially aid the beginner who so often has the haziest idea of the way to go about the preparation of a document. The usual resort is to secure some form and adopt it uncritically. If the student can learn from this book the importance of method, of visualizing the problem, projecting himself into the future, figuring out the rights and duties existing at each step of the performance and at each possible default; if he can learn the importance of keeping a record in his office of the necessary provisions in each type of instrument, and annotating it with statutes and decisions, preserving a copy of well-drafted clauses, and each time checking with the record to see that nothing is omitted, the book will have served a useful purpose.

*A. M. Kidd.*